



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2001 AB 36

**Assembly Substitute
Amendment 1 and Assembly
Amendment 2 Thereto**

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Current law requires the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) to administer a program to provide health services and benefits to persons who meet specified income eligibility requirements and other eligibility requirements. The BadgerCare program is available to persons who have income that does not exceed 185% of the poverty line, except that once eligibility is established, eligibility is retained as long as income does not exceed 200% of the poverty line.

Current law also allows DHFS to promulgate rules establishing a method by which the department may purchase family coverage offered by the employer of a member of a family eligible for BadgerCare or by a member of a child's household under circumstances in which the department determines that purchasing the coverage would not be more costly than providing BadgerCare coverage. DHFS has promulgated rules to administer the BadgerCare buy-in program, known as the health insurance premium payment program.

Assembly Bill 36 appropriates an additional \$13,542,500 of general purpose revenue (GPR) for the BadgerCare program for fiscal year 2000-01. In addition, the bill provides that \$11,237,100 in federal income augmentation moneys is to lapse to the general fund.

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 reduces the additional appropriation for BadgerCare from \$13,542,500 to \$11,512,200, a reduction of \$2,030,300.

Assembly Amendment 2 to Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 requires DHFS to submit a plan to the Joint Committee on Finance for encouraging greater participation in the health insurance premium payment program described above. The report must be submitted not later than 45 days after the effective date of Assembly Bill 36.

Adoption of Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 was recommended by the Assembly Committee on Health by a vote of 17 Ayes, 0 Noes, on January 23, 2001; and by the Joint Committee on Finance by a vote of 16 Ayes, 0 Noes, on January 24, 2001. Adoption of Assembly Amendment 2 to Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 was recommended by the Joint Committee on Finance by a vote of 16 Ayes, 0 Noes, on January 24, 2001.